

CHRISTMAS COUNT DATES:

- Dec. 16(Saturday): Buffalo Lake NWR - meet at headquarters at 8:00 a.m.
 Dec. 17(Sunday): Amarillo(Palo Duro Canyon/Lake Tanglewood) - meet at entrance to Palo Duro Canyon SP at 8:00 a.m.
 Dec. 19(Tuesday): Quitaque - meet at entrance to Caprock Canyons SP(Lake Theo) at 8:00 a.m.
 Dec. 21(Thursday): Arnett, Okla. - meet at the Circle C restaurant in Arnett at 7:00 a.m.
 Dec. 23(Saturday): Lake Meredith(west) - meet at National Parks HQ in Fritch at 7:30 a.m.
 Dec. 30(Saturday): Lake Meredith(east) - meet at National Park HQ in Fritch at 7:30 a.m.
 Jan. 1(Monday): Black Mesa, Okla - meet at the Longhorn Motel in Boise City the night before count.

AIRBORNE HUNTING PERMIT APPROVAL:

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department has issued an airborne hunting permit as of Oct. 30, 1978 to allow a company called C.H.R. Helicopter, Inc. (out of Uvalde, Texas) to hunt predators from the air.

The President of C.H.R. is Clay Hunt, the same man who was president of South Texas Helicopter Service (the company which pled guilty to eagle killing and conspiracy to violate the Airborne Hunting Act and the Eagle Protection Act).

Frank James, Vice-President of the company, admitted (in a deposition to Federal Agents) killing eagles from the air in New Mexico.

Kenneth Nunley, Treasurer of the company, was the lawyer who represented South Texas Helicopter Service when they pled guilty.

Texas Parks & Wildlife was aware of all of these links and nonetheless felt they "could not deny" the permit!

This raises strong questions as to whether Texas Parks & Wildlife Department is a responsible agency for overseeing the airborne hunting program.

Letters are urged to the following:

Ted Clark, Director
 Wildlife Division
 Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.
 4200 Smith School Road
 Austin, Texas 78744

John Hill
 Attorney General
 State Capitol
 100 E. 11th St.
 Austin, Texas 78702

Secretary Cecil Andrus
 Department of the Interior
 Interior Building
 Washington, D. C. 20240

Your Congressman

Editors of your newspapers

NEW CHECK LIST PUBLISHED:

An updated check list of the "Birds of the Texas South Plains" has been published covering 15 counties in the Lubbock area (Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, Kent, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry and Yoakum). It was compiled by Kelly Himmel and is done in the very informative graph format. Copies are available from the Llano Estacado Audubon Society, Box 3603, Lubbock, Texas 79450 at 25¢ each or 5 for \$1.00.

BIRD NOTES:

- Sept. 15 - A truly exciting observation was made by Max Traweek on this date. A rancher had reported a black swan on a stock tank located northwest of Vega, Oldham Co., and sure enough, that's what it was, an Australian Black Swan! On the following Tuesday morning, Sept. 19, while chocking out a minor waterfowl die-off in Farmer and Castro Cos., he encountered the bird again, this time on a playa. When last seen it was winging its way south, undoubtedly confusing and exciting many people along its route to wherever it was going. This was very likely an exdapee or introduced bird. Also seen by Max on Sept. 15 in Farmer Co. was a Long-billed Marsh Wren, a very early date.
- Oct. 7 - Barry Zimmer and Kon Seyffort reported several interesting species on the Hugh Currie Ranch near Lake Tanglewood - an Osprey; 2 late immature Red-headed Woodpecker; the first bluebird species of the season (seen flying at a distance; a male Lessor Goldfinch. KS had Chimney Swifts flying over his house in town.

Four people showed up for the field trip at Buffalo Lake NWR - Peggy Acord, Nancy Elliott, Kon Seyffort and Barry Zimmer. It was a warm, sunny afternoon with a moderate southerly wind, and 47 species were observed, including: 2 White Pelicans; 2 Double-crested Cormorants; 4 Cattle Egrets; 1 Snowy Egret; 1 American Bittern; 4 Pectoral Sandpipers; 200+ Long-billed Dowitchers; 10 Stilt Sandpipers; 1 Townsend's Solitaire. The dowitchers were quite exciting as small groups of them flashed by with great speed a few feet above the heads of the birders, flying south. A sudden, unexpected rush of air through wings, and then they were gone.

- Oct. 9 - Barry Zimmer reported the only Sanderlings of the season - 3 at Buffalo Lake NWR.

Oct. 15 - Barry Zimmer and Ken Seyffert spent the morning at Lake Meredith. Slogging through the mud and wading the river off Alibates, they observed 9 White Pelicans on the water and a Double-crested Cormorant flying. McBride Canyon was quiet save for 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, though 50+ Mountain Bluebirds were seen on the flats approaching the canyon.

Esther Waddill turned up with the best bird of the season, so far. She observed a Steller's Jay in her yard in town moving with a group of Blue Jays. It has been several years since this species has been reported in our area. Also seen this day by Tholma Fox was a Pinyon Jay and Red-breasted Nuthatch. With the Steller's Jay, several reports of Pinyon Jays, and many sightings of Scrub Jays, it may turn out to be an interesting winter. The last time a similar situation prevailed, we also had Clark's Nutcrackers in town and surrounding areas. Everybody keep a sharp watch!

Oct. 22 - Though few birds were seen, the group that gathered at Wheeler were given another grand tour of the area by that intrepid field man, Dick DeArment. The day began clear and warm, but by afternoon the wind was kicking up and before the field trip was over the wind was roaring out of the north, the clouds had moved in, and the temperature was dropping rapidly. We got into excellent birding habitat but everything was, as Uncle Remus said, "layin' low". Birds were pushed out of our minds, however, as Dick shared with us his vast knowledge of the plants of the area and their uses - but he didn't have to tell us what to do with the pears we found growing in trees at the edge of a pasture!

Oct. 29 - Ten members of the Llano Estacado Audubon Society (Lubbock) and six members of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society met at the Bufalo Lake NWR and had a wonderful field trip. The following is a list of the birds seen:

<u>Horned Grebe</u> (2)	"peeps"
Eared Grebe	Long-billed Dowitcher
<u>Western Grebe</u> (2)	American Avocet
Pied-billed Grebe	Ring-billed Gull
<u>Double-crested Cormorant</u> (9)	Franklin's Gull
Great Blue Heron	Great Horned Owl
Mallard	Common Flicker
Gadwall	Ladder-backed Woodpecker
Pintail	Horned Lark
Green-winged Teal	Blue Jay
American Wigeon	Rock Wren
Northern Shoveler	Brown Thrasher
Redhead	<u>Wood Thrush</u> (1)
Ring-necked Duck	Hermit Thrush
Canvasback	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Lesser Scaup	Loggerhead Shrike
Bufflehead	Starling
Ruddy Duck	Western Meadowlark
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Red-winged Blackbird
Marsh Hawk	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-tailed Hawk	American Goldfinch
American Kestrel	Rufous-sided Towhee
Bobwhite	Vesper Sparrow
American Coot	Dark-eyed Junco
Killdeer	Field Sparrow
Common Snipe	White-crowned Sparrow
Greater Yellowlegs	Song Sparrow
Lesser Yellowlegs	

Nov. 5 - At Caprock Canyons SP, Briscoe Co., Ken Seyffert found a Double-crested Cormorant on Lake Theo, and a Winter Wren. Near the park he found 2 lingering Yellow-headed Blackbirds, and a very late White-faced Ibis.

Nov. 7 - Two very late Nashville Warblers in Mary Moyer's yard in town.

LEGAL PRECEDENT AIDS REFUGES:

A lawsuit won by Defenders of Wildlife during the summer in United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., has set a precedent of major importance to sound management of the National Wildlife Refuge System. In language so clear it left no room for doubt, the court declared that the purpose of the National Wildlife Refuges is to protect migratory birds -- including the nongame as well as the game species -- and that any secondary use which interferes with this purpose is illegal.

The specific case at issue involved the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada. Under the provisions of the Refuge Recreation Act of 1962, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service moved to open the refuge to motorboating and waterskiing, with limits on the speeds, times and places where these activities could take place. Defenders of Wildlife went to court and won a permanent injunction against the boating proposal. The attorneys in the case believe it was the first court test of the Refuge Recreation Act. The judge noted that this law allows recreation in a refuge only to the extent that it is "not inconsistent... with the primary objectives" for which the refuge was established.

In more general terms, which could apply in cases involving other inconsistent uses of refuges, the judge said: "All National Wildlife Refuges are maintained for the primary purpose of preserving, protecting and enhancing wildlife and other natural resources and of developing a national program of wildlife and ecological conservation and rehabilitation." He specifically listed nongame as well as game species served by the Ruby Lake refuge. And - putting the burden of proof on the government - he said the Fish and Wildlife Service had failed to show that the motorboating would "not interfere with the primary purpose of the refuge."

....Audubon Leader....

PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER:

Our regular Society meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Garden Center.

A special program has been arranged by our Program Chairman, Mary Moyer, with the showing of the film "The Great White Bird". This is the Fish and Wildlife Services' latest film on the Whooping Crane and we urge all of our members to attend and to bring their friends. In anticipation of a good turnout, we will present the film in the auditorium of the Garden Center rather than in our regular meeting room.

Since Fern Cain, Vera Deason, Thelma Fox, Rena Ross, Rosemary Scott and Esher Waddill made a field trip to the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro, New Mexico, on the week-end of Nov. 10-12, they will be asked to give a commentary on the film as the Bosque del Apache has become another of the winter homes of the Whooping Crane.

Our regular business meeting will be held prior to the showing of the film.